



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **North Dakota Department of Health Coordinates Health and Medical Personnel Interested in Volunteering for Hurricane Katrina Response**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is working to coordinate health and medical volunteers interested in assisting with response to Hurricane Katrina.

“North Dakotans are reaching out in many ways to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “We are doing all we can for evacuees here in North Dakota, as well as on the ground in the gulf region. We are grateful to all who are stepping up in this heroic response.”

Public health or private medical professionals who would like to be considered for a response team are asked to register through the state’s Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve (PHEVR). Registration can be completed online at [www.ndhan.gov](http://www.ndhan.gov).

“Hurricane Katrina has dealt a devastating blow to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. “I know that many public and private health-care workers in North Dakota are eager to lend a hand in caring for the countless victims of this unprecedented tragedy. The medical expertise and compassion of those deployed will help ease the suffering of many of our neighbors to the south.”

Deployment of volunteers from North Dakota will be made through North Dakota Department of Emergency Services using the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Through EMAC, a disaster-impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states. Responding through EMAC is necessary to ensure that volunteers are protected from unforeseen accidents, injuries and legal actions.

For more information about volunteering for health and medical response, contact Tim Wiedrich, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2270.

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